

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 *Sub A* 1. A unitary absorbent structure, comprising:
2 an upper fibrous layer having a liquid acquisition
3 zone extending to one surface and a liquid distribution zone
4 extending to the other surface;

5 a lower fibrous liquid storage layer in liquid
6 communication with the distribution zone surface of said
7 upper layer, said storage layer including SAP particles; and

8 a containment layer surrounding the storage layer
9 and extending to the outer edges of said structure, said
10 containment layer containing the fibers and SAP particles of
11 said storage layer against the distribution zone surface of
12 the upper layer.

1 2. The structure of claim 1 wherein said upper
2 fibrous layer is airlaid and the acquisition zone has a
3 lower density than the distribution zone.

1 *Sub A37* 3. The structure of claim 1 wherein said lower
2 storage layer is an airfelt.

1 4. The structure of claim 1 wherein the
2 containment layer is sealed to at least one lateral edge of
3 said structure.

1 5. The structure of claim 4 wherein said
2 containment layer is sealed directly to the distribution
3 zone surface of said upper layer.

1 6. The structure of claim 4 wherein said
2 containment layer is sealed directly to the lower storage
3 layer.

1 7. The structure of claim 1 wherein said
2 containment layer is selected from the group consisting of
3 thermoplastic film, nonwoven and woven tissue.

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1 44 *44* 8. The structure of claim 1 wherein said
2 *cat. 8-* thermoplastic film is selected from the group consisting of
3 polyethylene and polypropylene.

1 9. The structure of claim 3 wherein said airfelt
2 layer is lightly bonded.

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